Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): A *statement containing the information asked for is laid on the table.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know from the member how many departmental schools were ordered to be closed?

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: 28.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: May I know the reasons for closing these schools?

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: The reasons are given in the statement. Overlapping, low strength, want of accommodation, unsatisfactory condition of school building—these are some of the reasons.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: After issuing the order for abolishing these schools, may I know whether any arrangements were made for admitting the students into the neighbouring schools?

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: Sir, only those schools are abolished in areas where there is sufficient provision of schools otherwise.

Mr. E. P. Varghese (*Nominated*): May I know the total number of schools abolished?

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: 113.

Mr. K Madhavan Pillai (*Trivandrum*): What was done with the buildings of the schools abolished?

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: In some cases the buildings were auctioned, and in some others they may have been handed over to the people of the locality.

Production and consumption of salt in the State.

71. * **Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai** (*Tovala* cum *Agastiswaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the quantity of salt produced in the State during the years 1109 and 1110;

(*b*) the average amount per year required for consumption in the State; and

(*c*) the amount of salt stored at present in the various salt factories?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) 1109-870614 maunds; during the first 11 months of 1110-1625722 maunds.

(*b*) About 12 lakhs of maunds.

(*c*) 891146 maunds.

* *Vide* Appendix I pages—435—437.

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Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: May I know from the member whether there is any necessity for the import of foreign salt?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: If the factories in the State continue to yield sufficient quantity of salt, Government may stop the import of foreign salt altogether. But this year, on account of the unusual drought, the out-put was very great.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: May I know whether this year they have given tenders for the import of foreign salt?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: Yes, Government propose to bring next year 75,000 maunds of salt.

Mr. A. N. Visvanatha Pillai (*Quilon cum Karunagappalli*) എത്ര ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം ഈ രാജ്യത്ത് ഉപ്പുകൃഷി ചെയ്യുവാനുണ്ട്?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: Between 400 and 500 acres under salt manufacture.

Mr. A. N. Visvanatha Pillai: പരിതസ്ഥിതികം അനുകൂലമായിരുന്നാൽ കൂടുതൽ ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ലെ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: ഉണ്ടാക്കാവുന്നിടത്തോളം ഉപ്പ് ഈ യാണ്ടിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കീട്ടുണ്ട്.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: With reference to part (*c*), may I know the quantity of salt now available in the various Government depots?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: About 6 lakhs of maunds.

Mr S. Piraviperumal Pillai (*Commerce and Industry, South*): With reference to part (*c*), may I know the purpose for which this salt is stored in the factories?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: For sale.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: Does the member know that merchants are put to very great difficulties in getting salt from these factories?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: Yes. Merchants were complaining that they were not getting salt to their liking. That was because of the arrangement by which *all* licensees are given facilities for the sale of salt irrespective of the quality of salt.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: Was the complaint due to their not liking the salt or was it because sale was restricted?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: The sale was restricted and consequently the merchants did not get what they wanted.

Mr. S Piraviperumal Pillai: May I know why all the salt available is not thrown open for sale?

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Mr. C. O. Madhavan: Sir, this is an important matter and I may be permitted to make a statement to explain the position fully.

President: Yes.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: At the instance of the licensees themselves, the department is exercising a certain amount of control over the sale of salt from the factories. Now if all the salt that is available is permitted to be sold, there will be undue competition among the licensees with the result that they will be obliged to resort to underselling. The licensees, therefore, proposed to me that the sale may be restricted to this extent, namely, that the salt manufactured in a certain season should not be permitted to be sold till the salt manufactured in the previous season is sold out. This is done just to enable all the licensees to get a sale for their salt, as all the factories do not produce salt of the same quality.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: Am I to understand that on account of the restriction, good salt will not be sold until all the powdery and bad salt is fully sold out?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: Yes. Until the salt of Purattasi *pani* of 1110 is sold out, the salt of Tai *pani* will not be permitted to be sold out.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: Am I to understand that good salt will not be made available until the licensees have sold all the inferior salt?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: That is the arrangement.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: Does the member know that the public are given only inferior salt at the price of superior salt?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: The price is the same.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: Is it not therefore enforcing the public to purchase bad salt at the price of good salt?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: That is the present arrangement. It has got all the incidental inconveniences or conveniences, whatever that may be.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: May I know when the contract for the import of foreign salt was given for the next year?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: The contract has not yet been given. We have only invited tenders. These tenders will be opened in another two weeks. Then the contract will be settled.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: Since there is sufficient output of salt in the Travancore Factories, is there any necessity for importing foreign salt?

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Mr. C. O. Madhavan: It is not a question of sufficiency of local salt. People in North Travancore like only Bombay salt. Till some time ago all their requirements were met by Bombay salt. Now Government have reduced the supply of Bombay salt to those parts. It is now 50 per cent. Bombay salt and 50 per cent. local salt that is stocked in the Munambam Depot. The intention of the Government is to reduce the import of Bombay salt by slow degrees and stop it altogether. Next year the supply of Bombay salt and local salt will be in the proportion of 1 to 2. If the manufacture of local salt continues to be favourable, the import of Bombay salt will be still further restricted.

Mr. P Padmanabhan Tampi (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): May I know whether the British Indian Salt Committee reported that the salt that we are getting is fourth rate salt containing mud and other impurities?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: That might have been the case some years ago. At present, so far as my experience goes, we are getting very good salt.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: The British Indian Committee reported last year.

Mr. C O. Madhavan: I am not aware of that.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: What is the amount of salt consumed per head on an average?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: We know the total population and the total quantity of salt consumed.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: May I know whether the Excise Commissioner has considered the question of the supply of the necessary salt for cattle?

President: The Excise Commissioner does not know for what purpose salt is being used. All that he knows is that so much quantity is sold.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): May I know whether the Commissioner is aware that illicit manufacture of salt is going on in the Puttenvelikara pakuthy in the Parur taluk?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: I am not aware.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Will the Government be pleased to enquire into that?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: On the basis of the member's statement, I shall do so.

Mr. H. O. L. Marikar (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Is the import of Bombay salt into the Devicolam District prohibited?

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Mr. C. O. Madhavan : There is no prohibition.

Mr. H. O. L. Marikar : Is the Commissioner aware that local salt alone is being used there ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : That may be because the merchants are purchasing only local salt.

Mr. H. O. L. Marikar : Will the Government be pleased to make arrangements hereafter so that local salt and Bombay salt may be purchased by the merchants in the Northern taluks in the proportion of two to one ?

President : The member has already told the House that that is the arrangement.

Registry of the Palkulam tank for salt manufacture.

72. ***Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to dispose of Palkulam tank in Kanniakumari pakuthi, Agastisvaram taluk, for the purpose of salt manufacture ;

(*b*) how many applications have hitherto been received for regsitry of the land for the salt manufactured ; and

(*c*) how many of the applicants are from Agastisvarm taluk and how many from other taluks and how many from outside the State ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : (*a*) Applications have been received for the registry of the Palkulam for salt manufacture.

(*b*) 4.

(c) Three applicants are from the Agastisvaram taluk and one from another taluk in the State. No application has been received from outside the State.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : May I know from the member whether the Palkulam tank is to be disposed of by public auction or by any other manner ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : The question has not reached that stage.

Prohibition of Liquor.

73. ***Mr. J. John Kattakayam** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have not, at the time of Mr. Watts, declared that prohibition was their ultimate goal, that they would try local option in some places and that if it was found successful, the same would be adopted generally ;

(*b*) the places where local option was tried, its result, whether they acted accordingly, and, if not, why ;

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